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THE LATE SURGEON-GENERAL CRANE, U. S. ARMY

At the regular meeting of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Association, held October 13th, Surgeon Harvey E. Brown, U. S. Army, made a brief address, eulogistic of the life and services of the late Surgeon-General Charles H. Crane, U. S. Army, who died in Washington, October 10th. Dr. Salomon moved, and it was unanimously carried, that the address be referred to the committee of publication with the cordial endorsement of the Association.

The following are the remarks of Dr. Brown:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Association:

"I rise to beg the privilege of addressing you a few words of eulogy in memory of one of our profession who has closed his earthly career during the past week; one, who, although occupying the highest position under the Government attainable by a medical man, was so modest and unassuming, so indifferent to the applause of others, apparently so oblivious of his own great gifts, that he was but little known to the profession outside of the corps of which he was the loved and honored head. I refer to Charles H. Crane, the Surgeon General of the United States Army.

"General Crane was a native of the State of Rhode Island, but his father was an old colonel of artillery and his early years were passed in various army garrisons, where he doubtless imbibed that fondness for the military portion of his chosen profession as well as that strictness of discipline which were his chief characteristics in after life.

"Soon after obtaining his degree he entered the army as Assistant Surgeon and did good service in the closing scenes of the Mexican war. The subsequent years were chiefly passed in the varied duties of a medical officer on the frontier, in garrison service, in Indian campaigns and scouts, always increasing his reputation as a faithful and energetic officer, a skilful surgeon, a learned and humane physician. The breaking out of the war found him on duty in New York, whence he was soon transferred to more active employment, and when the want was felt of great executive ability in the central office, he was detailed for duty as senior assistant to the Surgeon-General at Washington, and it is not too much to say that a large portion of the wonderful efficiency attained by the medical department in the last two years of the war was due to his unflagging industry, his keen insight and his wise counsel. On the reorganization of the army in 1866, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon-General, a position which he held for upwards of sixteen years, and it is no derogation to the great abilities of the lamented Barnes to say, that, to his great executive talent, aided by such coadjutors as Woodward, Otis and Billings, the Medical Department owes the proud position which it occupies to-day in the heart of the profession at large. On the retirement of General Barnes in 1882 he became his successor, and the Medical Department looked forward to a long career of prosperity and usefulness under his judicious management. But it was willed differently by the All-wise Disposer of events. In the full prime of a vigorous manhood—with all his great intellectual faculties unimpaired—with his ever active mind still bent on schemes for the improvement and advancement of the service at large and the corps of which he was the head—he has passed away, leaving behind him what was going to say—nothing but a memory—but I should rather say, an imperishable monument in the corps to whose welfare he had devoted the best energies of his life. And this without self-glorification, without any resort to those petty acts which baser minds find it necessary to use, to bring themselves before the public gaze. No reporter interviewed him—no Gazette or Journal chronicled his views or opinions—but he went steadily on in the path of duty, all his work and all his life devoted to the corps in which that life had been passed, caring nothing for adverse criticism, so long as he had the approbation of his own conscience and furthered the best interests of his department.

"Those who knew him can well imagine, that he bore the agonies of the closing hour more than bravely; that he bore them cheerfully; that 'when he was struck he gave the ring of the true metal and so died.'

"Mr. President and gentlemen: Every man is great who greatly lives and grandly dies. I feel how inadequately I have set forth the excellencies and virtues of this truly great man; but I must not trespass longer on your time. I have thought it but right and proper that I should say something, for,

"He was my friend, faithful and just to me,"

and having been such, I lay this humble tribute on his untimely grave."

